(b) the aims and objective thereof;

(c) the steps taken for the popularisation of Science & Technology programme in the States and to oversee the working of Non-Government Organisation in each State;

(d) the amount allocated for the development of science and technology to various states and Union Territories during the current plan period;

(e) the percentage of allocation made for rural development programme; and

(f) the achievement made by the scientists in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (f) National Council for Science & Technology Communication (NCSTC) is an apex body set up by the Central Government with the objectives of popularising Science and Technology and stimulating scientific temper. At the State/Union Territory level, NCSTC conducts its activities through the State S & T Counciles, and non government organisations. NCSTC does not made allocations State or Union Territory wise. It funds non governmental organisations and State Councils on project mode basis. Over-seeing of such funding is through close monitoring, personal visits, obtaining of utilisation certificates and audited reports. Activities of NCSTC cover both urban and rural areas. Therefore, it is not possible to indicate specific allocation for its activities in the rural areas alone.

The activities of NCSTC, which involves efforts of scientists at various levels, have been reviewed recently and it is felt that a greater awareness about Science & Technology in the Society has been generated.

World Bank Assistance

*76. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has agreed to help the Government of Andhra Pradesh in Power Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has given an unqualified commitment to bring about the reforms as suggested by the World Bank;

(d) if so, the main conditions laid by the World Bank for providing loan package to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) whether the Union Government have given its permission to the Government of Andhra Pradesh to get the loan from the World Bank on the above conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b). The Government of Andhra Pradesh have proposed to avail World Bank assistance for their power sector. The World Bank has agreed to discuss this with the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) to (e) The details of all the conditionalities would be know only after conclusion of discussions which is currently a preliminary stage. The Union Government could also take a view only thereafter.

[Translation]

Import of Petroleum Products

*77. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the terms and conditions on which import of petroleum products and natural gas is being permitted in the country;

(b) whether Government have been providing any financial assistance to the companies for the import thereof;

(c) if so, the conditions under which the assistance is being provided to these companies; and

(d) the criteria under which the Government have permitted these companies to sell these products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Import of crude oil and petroleum products in India is governed by the EXIM Policy announced by the Government from time to time. As per the current EXIM Policy. Indian Oil Corporation Limited is the canalising agency for import of crude oil and following major petroleum products:

— Aviation Turbine Fuel

— Motor Spirit

— Bitumen (Asphalt) Paving grade

— Furnace Oil (except Low Sulphur Heavy Stock/Low Sulphur Waxy Residue

— High Speed Diesel

— ATF, Bitumen (Asphalt)

Paving Grade and Furnace Oil (except Low Sulphur Heavy Stock/Low Sulphur Waxy residue) are also importable against Special Import Licence. Import of Lubricants/ Greases in consumer packs upto 20 ltrs/20 kgs is also permissible against Special Import Licence.

Import of Naphtha is currently covered in the list of Restricted items for imports in the EXIM Policy and its import is permitted without import licence for petrochemical sector subject to the condition that the return stream of Naphtha should be either sold to the crude oil refinery on

commercial terms or be used as industrial feedstock for own captive consumption by the importer.

Import of SKO and LPG have been decanalised. However, import of SKO for Public Distribution System and import of LPG for distribution by Public Sector Oil Companies, under the APM continue to be arranged by IOC with the approval of Empowered Standing Committee.

Import of petroleum products not covered in the list of canalised items/restricted items (against SILs) of the EXIM policy can be imported freely. No financial assistance is being given by the Government to oil companies for this purpose.

Natural Gas is not being imported at present.

(d) Petrol, Diesel, A.T.F., LPG, Kerosene, Bitumen, F.O., Naphtha, LSHS are sold by the Government Oil Companies under administered pricing system at prices fixed by Government from time to time. Free trade products like RPC, CPC, CBFS, Lubes, etc. are sold by the companies at prices fixed by themselves.

[English]

Northern Grid

*78. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:
SHRI K. PRADHANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any high level investigation has been made into the massive failure in the Northern Grid leading heavy load shedding in seven Northern States recently including Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Power Ministry has constituted a Committee under the Central Electricity Authority to examine the reasons for frequent disturbances in the grid;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government had also convened a high level meeting of the Chairman of Electricity Grid, Power Board and the NTPC, Power Secretaries and Chairmen of the Northern States;

(f) if so, the main decisions arrived at the meeting;

(g) whether the shortage of power continued throughout the country on a large scale during the last three months; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Power constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Member (Grid & Operation), Central Electricity Authority on 20th December. 1996 to analyse the cause leading to frequent disturbances in the Northern Grid and to suggest remedial measures to avoid recurrence of such distrubances. Another Committee of Experts under the Chairmanship of Shri Krishna Swarup former Chairman, CEA was constituted on 4th January, 1997 to enquire into causes of frequent trippings at Dadri complex.

(e) and (f) After the grid disturbance on 20th December, 1996. Secretary (Power) convened a high level review meeting on 22nd December, 1996 to formulate an action plan for preventing recurrence of such incidents. Based on the deliberations, an action plan was formulated, which included the following:

(i) Free Governor mode of operation to be resorted to on all large generating units for maintaining better frequency regime.

(ii) All constituent States to follow grid discipline by limiting their drawal to entitlement and ensure operation of the system at the frequency level not below 49.0 Hz.

(iii) Under frequency relays to be made operational by all State Electricity Boards by June, 1997.

(iv) Capacitor installation programme to be taken up on a priority basis.

(v) SEBs to monitor the functioning of existing capacitors.

(vi) Maintenance activities to be given importance and priority.

(vii) NTPC and POWERGRID to accord priority for maintenance of equipment.

(viii) Facilities for start up power in case of black start to be kept in a state of readiness and monitored periodically.

(ix) POWERGRID to provide bypass arrangement at Vindhyachal HVDC back to back station to facilitate import of power from Western to Northern Region and vice versa in case of grid collapse.

(g) and (h) The Statewise power supply position during the three month period November, 1996 to January, 1997 is given in the statement-I and II.

Statement-I

State-wise enegry shortage in the country during the Three Month period November and December, 1996 and January, 1997

Region/ State/System	Energy Shortage (%) Nov. '96	Dec. '96	Jan. '97
1	2	3	4
NORTHERN REGION:			
Chandigarh	0.0	1.4	0.0
Delhi	1.7	4.0	6.6